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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3828
SECRET NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

23544

file Dep
Program Status
Project AEDEPOT

SR/DOB/62-197

23 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT:

Proposed Participation of CIA UW
Assets in Military Training Exercises

1. This memorandum requests approval of subject
training proposed in paragraph 8.

2. As you know, Project AEDEPOT is SR Division's
mechanism for the spotting, assessment, recruitment,
training and holding of agent assets for the fulfillment
of UW requirements levied by JCS upon the Agency for
agents to serve as reception teams for Special Forces
troops. It is envisaged that these teams would provide
for the establishment of communication networks, E&E,
observation and reporting, and in general facilitate
the support of combat troops dropped in by the Special
Forces immediately subsequent to hostilities.

3. During their basic 16-week training, these agents
are given an intensive course covering W/T, air operations,
small arms, demolitions, sabotage, and other elements of
UW support. After completion of this basic course, their
capabilities are maintained through refresher training
administered during summer reserve training periods.

4. All AEDEPOT agents have been recruited by a "hot-
war" pitch for commitment into their respective ethnic
areas; however, during late 1960, upon the request of WH
Division, these agents were screened for WH needs and of
approximately twenty-five contacted, twenty were available
and volunteered their services for "cold-war" action in
the Western Hemisphere where they subsequently served in
a variety of assignments which they performed very well.
During late 1961, EE Division anticipated a need for agents
in connection with the Berlin crisis and called upon SR
for a 12-man group. A review of the agents' files indicated
eighteen agents possessed knowledge of the Polish language--
a prerequisite for the assignment. Of the eighteen, fifteen
who were readily available volunteered their services and
were brought to Washington where they were given special

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training in line with EE Division's anticipated needs. These fifteen have since constituted a stand-by group pending the recruitment and training of sufficient agents for EE.

5. I am sure you will agree that these results are encouraging. However, it is this Division's conviction that the ultimate test of the program's efficiency would be active participation in joint exercises with Special Forces in the European Theater. Such participation would be approached on a very selective basis through the use of only the outstanding members (potential team leaders) who would not only enhance their own capabilities and confidence, but would demonstrate to the Special Forces the type of support they could expect from this Agency's clandestine personnel in time of hostilities. It is believed that such participation on the part of SR assets, operating in areas well removed from their wartime targets, documented in alias and transported to and from Europe by DPD "black flights" would keep security risks at a minimum.

6. In extension of the above philosophy, it is believed that the second string remaining agents could be afforded realistic training through their participation in a U. S. joint military training exercise.

7. The AEDEPOT project officer has been nominated to War Plans Staff as an Agency observer representative for the forthcoming Special Forces training exercise in the European Theater during October 1962. Concurrently, the AEDEPOT training officer has been nominated as an Agency observer representative for the CINCSTRIKE ZI training exercise to be conducted during August 1962. In addition to any overall value the Agency may receive from this participation, these SR officers will be able to determine firsthand how best the SR wartime assets could profitably be incorporated into realistic war gaming programs.

8. It is therefore recommended that authorization be granted this Division to plan for possible 1963 participation of selected SR/AEDEPOT agent assets in both the European Special Forces training maneuvers and a major joint military training exercise in the U. S. The

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Agency has committed a substantial amount of personnel, funds, time and effort to the AEDEPOT Project, and it is believed that this is a very realistic way to test its effectiveness.

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Howard J. Osborn
Acting Chief, SR Division
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CONCUP

Chief, War Plans Staff

July 25 '62

Date

Recommendation in para 8
approved:

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Deputy Director (Plans)
31 JUL 1962
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This is a real test
forward. Some card
do this in practice
recurred - letter to
team is now down
later.

DDK

